

Welcome to Lewis County



Lewis County was created on December 19, 1845, before Washington became a state, and is named for Meriweather Lewis of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Since that time the size of our county has changed many times to the current size, which is 126 miles wide (east to west) and 30 miles long (north to south). Chehalis is the county seat. The current courthouse was built in 1927 on the corner of Main Street and Chehalis Avenue, Chehalis, WA. The Lewis County Museum is also located in Chehalis at the old railroad depot on Chehalis Avenue.

Centralia and Chehalis are the largest of our cities and have many celebrations and ceremonies throughout the year. The Southwest Washington Fairgrounds are between these two cities and the Fair is held each year during the month of August. There are interim events going on all year at the fairgrounds, which include everything from dog shows to home shows and many social events as well. Small town festivals start with the Vader May Day Celebration and go through Labor Day with the Packwood Flea Market.

Recreation is abundant in Lewis County with boating, fishing and camping available at Mayfield and Riffe Lakes; picnic and day areas at several parks throughout the county from Centralia to Vader and Pe Ell to Packwood. From the shores of Mineral Lake there is a beautiful view of Mt. Rainier and for viewing Mt. St. Helens you can enjoy the Hopkins Hill viewpoint, or drive up to Windy Ridge. Horse riding enthusiasts can enjoy the great trails at the Goat Rocks, Packwood Lake and Walupt Lake areas. If you are into hang-gliding, Dog Mountain is the place to be and don't miss the Morton Jubilee for national logging competitions.

Lewis County has something for everyone and we know you will enjoy your visit and travels in our area. Our most valuable resource is the warm and friendly people of Lewis County who will join us in welcoming you to our area.

Geography & Climate

Lewis County is situated halfway between Seattle, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, on Interstate 5 and covers approximately 2,452 square miles. Greater Lewis County can be accessed by Highways 6 and 12 and includes many scenic locations and tourist attractions including Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Mount Rainier National Park, the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mount Adams, the Tatoosh Wilderness, the Goat Rocks Wilderness, Riffe Lake, Mayfield Lake, and White Pass.

Skiing is close by at 5,000 feet above sea level and ocean beaches are just an hour's drive west. Mount St. Helens volcanic activity has drawn a high level of interest to Southwest Washington and become Lewis County's favorite landmark. The forested habitat and mountain ecosystem have made a remarkable comeback since the eruption of 1980. The natural geography of the mountain makes for exciting exploring and hiking. Lewis County's natural, varied landscape ranging from rolling hills to rugged terrain, to lakes, rivers and streams make for a beautiful landscape for river kayaking, whitewater rafting, fishing, hang gliding, mountain biking, horseback riding and offroad driving. Winter recreation is especially popular in Lewis County with hundreds of miles of trails for skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing or sledding. Whichever outdoor pastime you enjoy most, Lewis County is sure to give you plenty of options that will provide opportunities to take in the incredible views of the area's nature and geography.

Lewis County has a generally moderate climate with warm, dry summers and mild winters. The average high temperature is 62 degrees F, and the average low temperature is 41 degrees F. The area receives 45 inches of precipitation annually.

What's happening in Lewis County

JANUARY

<i>Dec 31 - Jan 1</i>	<i>McMenamins Olympic Club 2010 New Years Celebration</i>
<i>Jan 12</i>	<i>Community Blood Drive</i>
<i>Jan 12</i>	<i>Chehalis Middle School Steel Drums Concert</i>
<i>Jan 13</i>	<i>4CYP/Young Professionals</i>
<i>Jan 15 - Jan 16</i>	<i>2010 Chehalis Bridal Fair</i>
<i>Jan 16</i>	<i>Northwest Wind Symphony Concert</i>
<i>Jan 18</i>	<i>The Big Brunch- Big Brothers Big Sisters-Great Wolf Lodge</i>
<i>Jan 21</i>	<i>Business After Hours - Grant's Towing Hosted at The Shire Bar & Bistro</i>
<i>Jan 23</i>	<i>An Acoustic Evening with Al Stewart with special guest Dave Nachmanoff</i>
<i>Jan 25</i>	<i>Thorbeckes Annual Health & Fitness Fair</i>
<i>Jan 25</i>	<i>McMenamins GNWMT Presents: Blue Turtle Seduction</i>
<i>Jan 26</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Jan 27</i>	<i>Event at The Lunchbox</i>
<i>Jan 30</i>	<i>7th Annual Swiss Trio Bowling Tournament- Bowl with Lyle Overbay!</i>
<i>Jan 30</i>	<i>Texas Hold 'Em Tournament</i>
<i>Jan 31</i>	<i>4th Annual Taste of Lewis County</i>
<i>Feb 7</i>	<i>Super Bowl on the Big Screen @ McMenamins!</i>
<i>Feb 10</i>	<i>Anniversary Party at The Lunch Box!</i>
<i>Feb 11</i>	<i>Wine Mixer</i>
<i>Feb 12</i>	<i>Sweetheart Ball</i>
<i>Feb 20 - Feb 21</i>	<i>Lewis County Master Builders Home Show</i>
<i>Feb 23</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Feb 26</i>	<i>Centralia Rotary "Catch the Buzz" Spelling Bee</i>
<i>Mar 18</i>	<i>Business After Hours</i>
<i>Mar 23</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Apr 15</i>	<i>Business After Hours</i>
<i>Apr 27</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>May 14 - May 15</i>	<i>Relay For Life of Lewis County-Tiger Stadium</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Appreciation Dinner</i>
<i>May 20</i>	<i>Business After Hours</i>
<i>May 24</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>
<i>May 25</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Jun 19</i>	<i>Chefs' Night Out</i>
<i>Jun 22</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Jul 15</i>	<i>Business After Hours</i>
<i>Jul 17th - Jul 18th</i>	<i>Seattle To Portland (STP) bike ride</i>
<i>Jul 17th - Jul 18th</i>	<i>Napavine FunTime Festival</i>
<i>Jul 27</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Aug 3</i>	<i>Power of the Purse</i>
<i>Aug 17 - Aug 22</i>	<i>Southwest Washington Fair-Lewis County Fairgrounds</i>
<i>Aug 27 - Aug 29th</i>	<i>Garlic Festival-Southwest Washington Fairgrounds</i>
<i>Aug 19</i>	<i>Business After Hours</i>
<i>Aug 24</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Aug 29</i>	<i>I-5 5K run</i>
<i>Sep 2</i>	<i>United Way of Lewis County Campaign Kickoff</i>
<i>Sep 16</i>	<i>Business After Hours</i>

<i>Sep 17</i>	<i>20th Annual United Way Golf Tournament</i>
<i>Sep 17</i>	<i>Gala Reception for the Artists--ARTrails of Southwest WA</i>
<i>Sep 18 - Sep 26</i>	<i>Open Studio Tour--ARTrails of Southwest WA</i>
<i>Sep 28</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Oct 2</i>	<i>Manastash Metric Bike Tour - The Drier Ride</i>
<i>Oct 21</i>	<i>Business After Hours</i>
<i>Oct 26</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Nov 18</i>	<i>Business After Hours</i>
<i>Nov 23</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Dec 4</i>	<i>Santa Drop</i>
<i>Dec 13</i>	<i>Visiting Nurses Foundation "Victorian Tea"</i>
<i>Dec 16</i>	<i>Business After Hours</i>
<i>Dec 28</i>	<i>AM Mixxer</i>
<i>Dec 31 - Jan 1</i>	<i>New Years</i>

For information on events go to ~ www.chamberway.com/calendar/

Lewis County Commissioners Committees and Appointments – 2010

RON AVERILL- DISTRICT I

COMMITTEE NAME

Board of Health	EDC (Economic Development Council) - general membership
Executive Steering Committee (ESC)	Fire Commissioners Meeting
Electeds' Brown Bag Lunch	Solid Waste Disposal District #1
Lewis County Seniors	Planned Growth Committee
Mayors Meeting	Lewis/Mason/Thurston Community Action Council
C L E D D (Jennifer Keene) (Lee, alternate)	L C Transportation Strategy Council
Council of Governments (COG)	Legislative Steering Committee (WSAC)
LC Law & Justice	Nisqually River Council
Landfill Closure Group	Alcohol & Drug Abuse Advisory
Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)	Meth Task Force
DUI/Traffic Safety Commission	Lake Mayfield Youth Camp
Timberland RSN	Flood Authority
High Utilizers Task Force	Mental Health Coalition

BILL SCHULTE - DISTRICT II

COMMITTEE NAME

Board of Health	EDC (Economic Development Council) - general membership
Executive Steering Committee (ESC)	Fire Commissioners Meeting
Electeds' Brown Bag Lunch	Solid Waste Disposal District #1
Lewis County Seniors	Planned Growth Committee
Mayors Meeting	CCBT
One Voice	Chehalis Basin Partnership
Personnel Advocacy Committee	Chehalis-Centralia Airport Board
Twin Transit	LEOFF Disability Board
WA Co Insurance Fund Trustee (WCIF)/(POOL)	Lewis County Health Benefits Committee
Solid Waste Executive Committee	SWCCA (SW WA Clean Air Agency)
Developmental Disability Board	

LEE GROSE - DISTRICT III

COMMITTEE NAME

Board of Health	EDC (Economic Development Council) - general membership
Executive Steering Committee (ESC)	Fire Commissioners Meeting
Electeds' Brown Bag Lunch	Solid Waste Disposal District #1
Lewis County Seniors	Planned Growth Committee
Mayors Meeting	EDC Board of Directors-Executive Comm.
Community Partners	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
WA Co Risk Pool Board of Directors (WCRP)	Capital Facilities Meeting
EDC Board of Directors (every other month)	Timber Counties
Secure Rural Schools Coalition	Title II/III- Resources Advisory Committee (RAC)
Packwood Airport/South Lewis Co Airport	Habitat Advisory Group (HAG)
Law Library	

Elected Officials

Lewis County

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Commissioner Ron Averill, District 1	(R)	2012
Commissioner Bill Schulte, District 2	(R)	2012
Commissioner F. Lee Grose, District 3	(R)	2010
Superior Court Judge Nelson E. Hunt, Dept. 1	(NP)	2013
Superior Court Judge Jim Lawler, Dept. 2	(NP)	2013
Superior Court Judge Richard Brosey, Dept. 3	(NP)	2013
<i>Note: Terms for Superior Court Judges begin and end the second Monday in January.</i>		
District Court Judge Michael P. Roewe, Dept. 1	(NP)	2010
District Court Judge R.W. Buzzard, Dept. 2	(NP)	2010
Assessor – Dianne Dorey	(R)	2010
Auditor – Gary Zandell	(R)	2010
Clerk – Kathy Brack	(R)	2010
Coroner – Terry Wilson	(R)	2010
Prosecuting Attorney – Michael Golden	(R)	2010
Sheriff – Steve Mansfield	(R)	2010
Treasurer – Rose Bowman	(R)	2010

(D) = Democrat (R) = Republican (NP) = Non Partisan

Elected Officials

Term
Expires

Washington State

20th Legislative District:

State Senator - Dan Swecker	(R)	2012
State Representative #1 - Richard DeBolt	(R)	2010
State Representative #2 - Gary C. Alexander	(R)	2010

Congressional

3rd Congressional District:

U.S. Senator - Maria Cantwell	(D)
U.S. Senator - Patty Murray	(D)
U.S. Representative - Brian Baird	(D)

(D) = Democrat

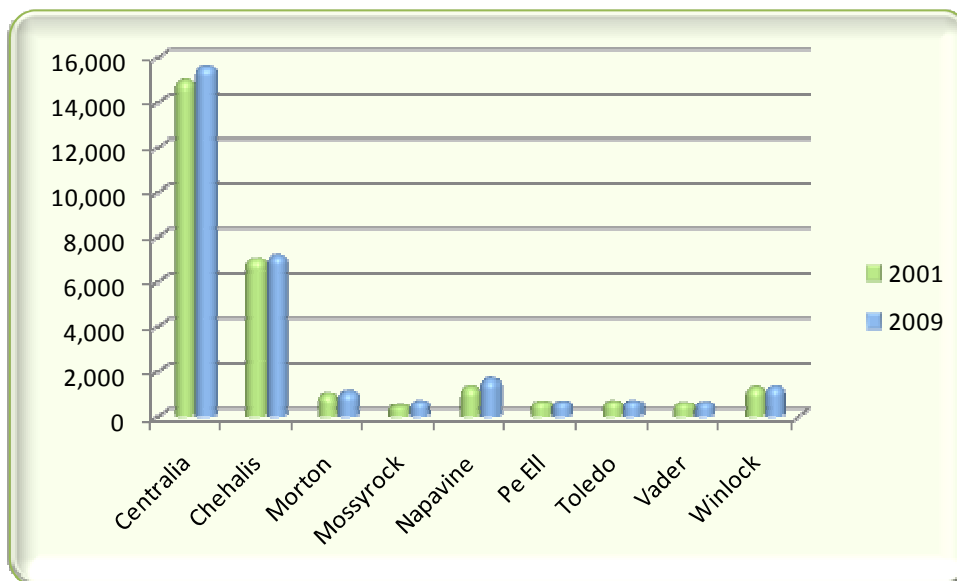
(R) = Republican

Demographics

*Population of Cities, Towns, and County
Lewis County, April 1, 2001-April 1, 2009*

Municipality	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Lewis	69,500	70,200	70,400	70,700	71,600	72,900	74,100	74,700	75,200
Unincorporated	41,367	41,920	42,145	42,415	43,213	44,117	45,073	45,365	45,555
Incorporated	28,133	28,280	28,255	28,285	28,387	28,783	29,027	29,335	29,645
Centralia	14,950	15,040	15,110	15,200	15,340	15,430	15,520	15,540	15,570
Chehalis	7,015	7,055	7,010	6,980	6,990	7,025	7,045	7,215	7,185
Morton	1,040	1,050	1,025	1,015	1,025	1,127	1,140	1,140	1,140
Mossyrock	490	490	485	480	480	485	485	485	695
Napavine	1,352	1,360	1,330	1,330	1,328	1,400	1,492	1,610	1,690
Pe Ell	660	660	660	660	599	666	670	670	670
Toledo	684	685	685	685	685	685	685	690	695
Vader	605	605	610	595	600	615	620	625	630
Winlock	1,337	1,335	1,340	1,340	1,340	1,350	1,370	1,360	1,370

Source: Office of Financial Management



Average Annual County Labor Force

Year	Labor Force	Employment	Unemp.	Unemp. %
2003	30,810	27,940	2,870	9.3%
2004	31,370	28,800	2,570	8.2%
2005	30,720	28,360	2,360	7.7%
2006	31,190	29,010	2,180	7.0%
2007	30,710	28,810	1,890	6.2%
2008	31,630	28,780	2,840	9.0%
2009	31,050	26,680	4,380	14.0%

www.choosewashington.com

Employees and Wages by Industry

Industry	Employment	Avg Salary
Accommodation and food services	2,232	\$14,890
Administrative and waste services	1,389	\$17,798
Arts, entertainment and recreation	603	\$9,816
Construction	1,879	\$39,544
Educational services	287	\$12,530
Finance and insurance	692	\$31,867
Forestry, fishing, related activities and other	1,817	\$34,649
Government	5,206	\$42,564
Government: Federal, Civilian	241	\$66,780
Government: Local Government	3,515	\$40,815
Government: Military	240	\$40,696
Government: State and Local	4,725	\$41,424
Government: State Government	1,210	\$43,194
Health care and social assistance	3,376	\$37,166
Information	340	\$34,894
Management of companies & enterprises	117	\$37,624
Manufacturing	3,640	\$48,779
Mining	810	\$87,496
Other services, except public administration	2,271	\$18,682
Professional and technical services	945	\$29,517
Real estate and rental and leasing	936	\$13,042
Retail Trade	4,829	\$23,627
Transportation and warehousing	1,483	\$41,303
Utilities	295	\$104,854
Wholesale Trade	759	\$40,470

www.zoomprospector.com

Building Permits and Construction Values

Commercial Building

Residential Building

Year	Permits	Value	Permits	Value
2006	27	18,341,769	508	62,492,676
2007	10	17,321,669	421	51,397,948
2008	30	6,658,883	275	31,081,313
2009	12	2,154,995	187	19,157,955

